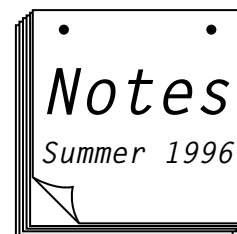


RC&D



Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation and Development

Skains Elected President of National Association

Reggie G. Skains has been elected as the new president of the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils. The association of over 300 councils from throughout the nation helps bring people together to identify and solve human, economic, and environmental problems in their communities. Skains is the second president in the 10-year history of the Association.



As president, Skains will oversee a unique national program that helps communities care for and protect natural resources that improve the area's economy, environment, and living standards. Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) generates grassroots support for community improvement activities through locally-led boards or councils. The RC&D concept is based on the fact that local people are best able to determine needs and create solutions for their communities. The RC&D program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Skains became interested in RC&D work 6 years ago and was appointed to the Trailblazer RC&D Council in 1992 by the D'Arbonne Soil and Water Conservation District Board. He has served on the Trailblazer RC&D Executive Board of Directors, the Louisiana State Association of RC&D Councils Executive Board of

Directors, and the National RC&D Board of Directors. He is serving his second term as President of the Southwest Regional Association of RC&D Councils..

Skains is the owner and president of R.G.S. Construction Company, Inc., an erosion control and landscaping business. He and his wife Sue Wona live in Downsville, Louisiana. Skains is serving his third term as mayor. He is active in the United Methodist Church serving as a United Methodist district lay leader. He has served on the Downsville United Methodist Church Administrative Board; the Trustee, Stewardship and Finance Committee, and served as Chairman of Pastor-Parish Relations.

Through his involvement with the United Methodist Church, Skains has been a member of eight teams that have helped build schools and churches in Alaska, Panama, Costa Rica, and New Mexico. He has made thirteen such trips to help people who were not able to help themselves.

In other community efforts, Reggie has served as president of the Downsville High School Parent-Teacher Organization; chairman of the Union Parish Emergency Commission; vice president of the Union Parish Economic Development Board of Directors; Union Council on Aging and Union Parish Committee of School Facilities.

...communities care for and protect natural resources that improve the area's economy, environment, and living standards.

National Association offers testimony on appropriations to House subcommittee

"We have reached our limit of being able to do more with less." said Tom Spellmire, Treasurer of the National Association of RC&D Councils, when he testified on behalf of the Association before the House Subcommittee on Appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. Spellmire's testimony emphasized the need for an increase in USDA funding for the RC&D Program. Over the past several years, the funds allocated to the RC&D Program have decreased while the number of RC&D Councils has increased.

President Clinton's Fiscal Year 1997 Budget calls for the RC&D Program to receive \$29.2 million. The National Association wants Congress to

allocate \$38 million to restore past budget cuts and allow funding for new RC&D applicant areas awaiting authorization. Currently, 51 RC&D Steering Committees are seeking USDA authorization.

The Subcommittee was impressed with RC&D's ability to leverage USDA funds and the volunteers who work with

the program. Spellmire informed the Subcommittee that RC&D Councils average leveraging is \$10 to \$20 from private, local, state, and other sources received for every dollar of RC&D funds. Spellmire also told the Subcommittee members that he was an RC&D volunteer and had taken the day off from work on his family farm in Ohio to testify.

"We have reached our limit of being able to do more with less."



Hometown Trees Program 1996

Over 70,000 trees have been planted in southwest Georgia communities in the past 3 years through the Hometown Trees Program. The trees were planted at schools, parks, churches, in wetlands and other areas throughout southwest Georgia. Trees help protect soil from erosion, filter air, clean our drinking water, enhance wetlands, and provide shelter and food for wildlife. All these elements help protect the environment and the earth's ecosystem.

Participating in the Hometown Trees Program planting, were USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District, Georgia Forestry Commission, and local government officials.

The Hometown Trees Program has an international focus that has a goal to plant 100 million trees by the year 2000. The trees are donated by IGA, Coca-Cola USA and Louisiana Pacific through this program. The Golden Triangle (GA) RC&D Council is helping southwest Georgia benefit from this program by beautifying its communities, environment and enhancing water



quality. The Council plans to continue implementing this project for the next 4 years. With each communities help, we can make the environment a better place to live.

Students at the Mitchell County Elementary School are beautifying their outdoor classroom and helping the environment in their community. Students have planted 200 trees at the outdoor classroom consisting of bald cypress and blackgum in the wetland areas and dogwoods, live oaks, hackberry and white ash in other areas of the outdoor classroom. Each class will adopt a tree in the wetland and dryland areas to care for and study the trees benefits and growth. **We must teach our children now about what they can do to help save the earth for tomorrow.**

For more information about the Hometown Trees Program and how you may get involved, contact the Golden Triangle RC&D Council, Inc., 712-R County Street, Blakely, Georgia 31723, Jerome Brown, coordinator. Phone 912 723-3841.

Iowa 150 Mississippi River Sesquicentennial Adventure

Looking for a challenging, informative, and fun filled vacation this year? Join the Iowa 150 Mississippi River Adventure. The Limestone Bluffs RC&D along with Geode RC&D, and RC&D for Northeast Iowa are working with the County Sesquicentennial Commissions for the ten counties bordering the Mississippi River to plan, and coordinate a 14-day event, August 4 - 17, commemorating the history, culture, and development of life along the Mississippi River. This event is one of the major events for the Iowa Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1996.

The main adventure event will be a 311-mile conoe/kayak trip from New Albin, Iowa (near the Minnesota border) to Keokuk, Iowa (near the Missouri border). The itinerary is listed below and each of the overnight communities are planning special events ranging from historic pageants to ethnic food fairs to coincide with the Mississippi River Adventure Days.

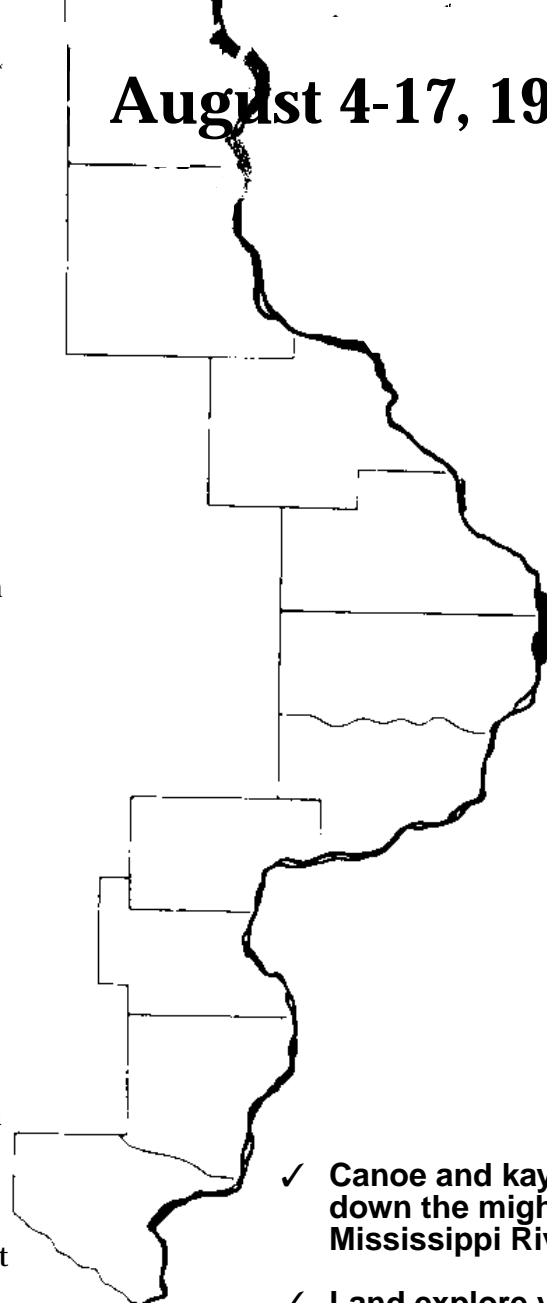
Sun	Aug 4	New Albin	Lansing
Mon	Aug 5	Lansing	McGregor
Tue	Aug 6	McGregor	Guttenberg
Wed	Aug 7	Guttenberg	Dubuque
Thu	Aug 8	Dubuque	Bellevue
Fri	Aug 9	Bellevue	Sabula
Sat	Aug 10	Sabula	Clinton
Sun	Aug 11	Clinton	LeClaire
Mon	Aug 12	LeClaire	Buffalo
Tue	Aug 13	Buffalo	Muscatine
Wed	Aug 14	Muscatine	Oakville
Thu	Aug 15	Oakville	Burlington
Fri	Aug 16	Burlington	Fort Madison
Sat	Aug 17	Fort Madison	Keokuk

If you are interested in road travel rather than conoeing, the ten counties are planning land tours that showcase Iowa's Great River Road and eastern Iowa.

For registration information contact the Iowa 150 Mississippi River Adventure, P.O. Box 783, Maquoketa, IA 52060-0783. Phone (319) 652-5104 or FAX (319) 652-5229. For more information call Warren Johnson, coordinator, Limestone Bluffs RC&D Office, 319 652-5104.

The Iowa 150

August 4-17, 1996



- ✓ Canoe and kayak down the mighty Mississippi River
- ✓ Land explore via the Great River Road
- ✓ Thirteen overnight stops with various festivities

RC&D Leads the way for USDA - A Learning Partnership

The Texas Learning Partnership (TLP) will be implementing a pilot learning system that delivers cost-effective and accessible training to rural communities. It is sponsored and supported by numerous USDA agencies, RC&D councils and associations, SWCD boards and associations, and others. When deployed in Texas the learning system will be expanded to provide learning opportunities nationwide.

Phase One of the Texas Learning Partnership is designed to establish a learning system to prepare and develop our USDA partners for the future. Phase Two will expand the Texas Learning Partnership into communities to support their efforts in developing leadership, building community capacity, and strengthening economic development in rural communities.

Throughout the process, the Texas Learning Partnership will evaluate the efforts to establish a low cost, easily accessible, high quality learning system. These findings will be used to assess program progress and expand the base of support when helping other states replicate the system.

Delivering cost-effective and accessible training to rural communities is a powerful tool when training is consistent with the vision of the organization and focuses on the individual's learning needs. The Texas Learning Partnership will help ensure that we can continue to achieve our highest potential through our ability to learn today. The system will expand this opportunity to rural communities.

The public is demanding accountability on how public funded organizations help them to solve complex problems. But the resulting paradox is that these same organizations are expected to do more, do it better, faster, and cheaper, with fewer resources. One thing is clear; our ability to meet the needs of clientele in the future will be determined by our ability to adapt to change today. In fact, recent research suggests that how fast and effectively people learn may likely be the only potential source of competitive advantage.

To meet this challenge, a cooperative inter-agency group has formed to create a learning system that will prepare our partners for the future. The Texas Learning Partnership is designed to benefit the State's population by enhancing the knowledge base of those who serve them. The result is a public workforce providing additional and tangible value to its constituents.

The Texas Learning Partnership has representatives from:

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service
Forest Service
Farm Services Agency
Rural Development
Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service
Texas Association of RC&D Councils
Texas Rural Development Council
Texas Governor's Office
Cognitive Training Associates, Inc

What is the Texas Learning Partnership?

The Texas Learning Partnership is a systems approach to assess, deliver, and evaluate training to USDA employees. This effort was formed to:

- * Reduce training costs
- * Limit employee travel time
- * Equip employees with skills needed now and in the future
- * Encourage partnering among agencies
- * Improve accountability
- * Build leadership in local communities

Features of the TLP System include:

- * Customized training to improve individual and organizational performance
- * Onsite training using Internet, distance education, classroom, and other delivery methods.
- * Unlimited and user friendly access, allowing individuals to select their preferred training method, learn at their own pace and adjust their own time schedule.
- * Automated systems that assesses skills, assists in matching learning units to job performance skills development needs, tracks and reports progress.

- * Local support groups that provide coaching, enhance learning, and strengthen partnerships.
- * Training topics include both “soft” skills and Technical subjects.
- * Open access for individuals in rural communities interested in leadership, community and economic development.

Local coaching groups: For many people, an important part of learning is sharing resources and ideas with others. A coaching network is an essential component of the Texas Learning Partnership. With this network, agency employees build communications, share learning, and encourage active partnering to improve performance and better serve their clientele. Through better communication and coordination across agencies, duplication of training and training costs are reduced. As the Texas Learning Partnership expands into the community, the coaching group may help to mentor others.

Customized “Learning in Place” at your own pace: Learning in-place reduces the time employees must be out of the office or area, limits the travel time needed to attend off-site training and reduces travel expenses. Low-cost training is accessible to more employees or to staff that otherwise would not be able to attend training because of limited travel budgets, office staffing constraints, or personal circumstances. Finally, limited training resources are used more wisely when classroom training is the best approach to provide learning.

Learning in place, for example, uses Internet. With it, employees can access self-paced workbooks, audio tape sets, video, commuter based training, and other learning units identified in their individual development plan, and complete the training without ever leaving their workplace. Employees can choose learning units that appeal to their learning style and complete the training at their own pace during periods that fit their schedule.

Another key element of the Texas Learning Partnership System is the ability, through automation and modern technology, to meet the learning needs of literally thousands of participants at the same time, delivering customized training to each individual, at their work loca-

tion, when they need it. This is accomplished by using a learning system that:

- assesses the new participants present job skill level;
- assists the participant and mentor to develop a customized Individual Development Plan that when implemented will raise the participants skills to a desired level;
- delivers the learning units identified in the IDP to the participant ;
- tests the participant to determine if the desired skill level has been achieved;
- tracks each individuals progress; and
- evaluates the effectiveness of the system.

For more information contact John Marstella, NRCS National RC&D Specialist at 817 334-5296 Ext. 3021.

Every little bit helps

Indiana’s Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Water Resources Committee is coordinating a Volunteer Water Monitoring pilot program to test streams, rivers, and inlets to lakes within the six county RC&D Project Area. The Water Monitoring Pilot Program Volunteers will be following the guidelines developed by the Water Watches of Indiana Program that is geared toward teachers and high school students. The Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Water Resources Committee is adapting the Water Watches of Indiana Program for adults and is working with ten groups of individuals.

Seed money was contributed by the St. Joe River Basin Commission. With some time and several presentations, more money was contributed by the Maumee River Basin Commission, Steuben County Drainage Board, and two lake associations. Several other lake associations are pooling their efforts and sharing the cost of monitoring equipment.

Volunteer time, ownership of a project, sharing cost, monitoring water quality within watersheds, forming new partners, and improved water quality communication within the region. Placing a \$ value on these is difficult.

For more information about the Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D water quality monitoring program contact the RC&D Office at 219-925-3066.

Trailblazer, Inc. On-Ramp to Web

Trailblazer, Inc., Ruston, Louisiana, has recognized that rural communities within its eight-parish area do not have the same access to Internet that larger urban areas take for granted.



Trailblazer and LinkNet Internet Services have teamed up to offer internet services to the Trailblazer area. Anyone may sign up and have access to the Internet, e-mail, and other programs through The Trailblazer On-Ramp to Internet Project.

What will my participation in the On-Ramp Program cost? There is a one-time setup charge of \$15, plus the basic fee of \$15 per month for unlimited access to the Internet.

Are there long distance fees? If you can make a local call to one of LinkNet's local dialup sites, there will be no long distance fees.

What equipment do I need? You will need a computer, a telephone line, and a modem.

Can the software be used in more than one location? You may use your software both at home and at the office.

How will I be billed? You may be billed in your telephone bill, your major credit card bill, or you may make payments in three month increments. Customer invoicing is available for all business accounts.

For more information about The Trailblazer On-Ramp to the Internet Project, contact Ellzey Simmons, coordinator, Trailblazer, Inc. Call 318 255-3554.

Renew America salutes Golden Triangle RC&D for "Operation Clean Enviro Project"

The Golden Triangle RC&D Area, Inc., Blakely, Georgia, has been selected for inclusion in the Environmental Success Index, a data base that communities can use to learn about successful environmental programs. The Golden Triangle was recognized for its program **Operation Clean Enviro**. Through environmental conservation education and recycling projects, this program is helping communities meet a 25 percent reduction of solid waste entering the landfills. These conservation projects are protecting natural resources, providing income, providing job opportunities, and increasing community partnerships. "Chancey", the environmental turtle, created from this project is available to visit local schools to promote environmental conservation.

About 1,600 programs are listed in the Index, which is used by government agencies, community organizations, businesses, environmentalists, and the media. Programs in the Index are screened by the National Awards Council for Environmental Sustainability. The council is a unique coalition of 60 environmental, community, government, and business organizations. This Council selects programs each year from projects that range from energy efficiency, water resource conservation to solid and hazardous waste management and protecting endangered species. Renew America is the nation's leading source for environmental solutions, coordinates the Awards Council.

For more information about Golden Triangle's **Operation Clean Enviro Project**, contact Jerome Brown, coordinator at 912 723-3841

Economic Development Digest

Economic Development Digest, a monthly publication of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation. This publication contains a great deal of useful information germane to activities of many RC&D Councils.

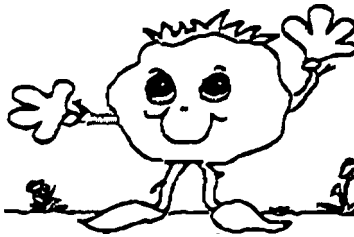
RC&D offices will receive copies of this monthly publication in the future. If there are others who would like to receive this publication, contact Economic Development Digest, call 202 624-7806; FAX 202 624-8813.

Sammy Soil down on the Hatchie

The Chickasaw-Shiloh (TN) RC&D Council places environmental education as one of its highest priorities. The lack of awareness about nonpoint pollution and inadequate teaching tools led the Council in search of a solution to this knowledge gap.

Through the use of Sammy Soil, an on-going Council project, an interactive CD-ROM educational program

will be produced focusing on agriculture and environmental issues. This program will be used in the RC&D area's elementary schools to teach the children about natural resources, how they affect their environment, and how important the environment is to their future. Funding for this project is provided by an EPA 319 Grant.



For more information about this educational program contact Chris Moyers, Coordinator, Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D at 901 668-7770.

Headwaters Charitable Trust grant

For developing a process to remove toxic metals from mine drainage, Headwaters Charitable Trust, affiliated with Headwaters RC&D Council in Pennsylvania, was awarded a grant from the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Protection Program, funded by the Heinz Endowments. Since 1992, Headwaters Charitable Trust has purchased 710 acres of land throughout the Headwaters RC&D Area affected by industrial activities.

Funding provided by this grant, in addition to other state, Federal and private foundations, has enabled the Trust to build seven passive treatment systems that treat 500,000 gallons of mine drainage daily. A cooperative program is being initiated with research groups to develop marketable aluminum and iron hydroxides that are byproducts of these passive treatment processes.

For more information about this program call Headwaters RC&D at 814 765-4612.

Resource Recovery Center brochure

The dedicated leadership of Pearlee Wells, technician with the Marion-Cass Soil and Water Conservation District and a member of the Northeast Texas RC&D Executive Board, has resulted in the printing of 50,000 brochures to publicize the Cass County Resource Recovery Center. Ms. Wells contacted the Ark-Tex Council of Governments, which provided the artwork and design for the brochure. She also met with executives of the International Paper Company, which generously provided a grant of \$5,000 for printing costs.

The brochure describes the Resource Recovery Facility, owned by Cass County and located in Linden, Texas. The facility is a high-tech answer to a landfill. Approximately, 75 percent to 80 percent of the garbage brought to the facility is recycled or reused. Glass, plastics, aluminum, steel, textiles, and other recyclables are separated. Material that remains after the separation process is ground up and made into a paper derived fuel cube. This fuel is used in industrial coal and bark fired boilers.

Of the 50,000 brochures printed, 20,000 will be mailed to area households and 30,000 will be used for educational purposes for schools, civic groups, and tours.

The idea of developing a brochure to inform area citizens of the Resource Recovery Facility was presented to the Northeast Texas RC&D Executive Committee by Cass County Judge Tommy Kessler and approved by the committee.

National Wood Recycling Directory

The American Forest & Paper Association, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, has produced the **National Wood Recycling Directory**, one of many publications and resources AF&PA has produced to foster and expand forest products recovery and recycling.

For a free copy of AF&PA's Technical Publications Catalog, write to AF&PA/AWC, 1111 19th St. NW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20036, or call 202 463-2700, or FAX 202 463-2785.

“Thunderbolt Of The Confederacy”.....

The echoes of the Civil War are becoming louder in Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Area in southeastern Indiana. A group has been organized to formally define and publicize the route of John Hunt Morgan's celebrated 1863 raid through southern Indiana. The “Thunderbolt of the Confederacy” entered into Indiana on July 8 from Brandenburg, Kentucky and passed through seven Indiana counties before disappearing into Ohio on July 13. In his path lay twenty dead Hoosiers, jaded horses, looted businesses, and all the ingredients for Southern Indiana's most popular folklore.



The objective of the Morgan Raid Project is to “identify, interpret and promote” the trail of General Morgan and his 2,400 horsemen, according to Richard Skidmore, Project Organizer from Hanover. Maps, guide books, brochures, and audio tapes will be made available to the public, as will free educational material for school children. To facilitate tourism and historical study, the route will be clearly marked with directional and interpretative signs.

Morgan's route can be followed on approximately 175 miles of southern Indiana roads. Most of the route is covered with modern highways. However, visitors can still enjoy stretches of narrow, winding, tree-lined country roads which provide a sense of life in 1863. The materials generated by the Morgan Raid Project will add to the experience of “following Morgan.”

The project capitalizes on the growing national enthusiasm for Civil War history. Of special significance, the group expects that Kentucky (Morgan's starting point) and Ohio (where Morgan was captured) will have similar projects in the future. Southeastern Indiana, the centerpiece of the raid, will benefit directly from interest in both of these neighboring states.

Historic Hoosier Hills, Tourism and Recreation Promotion Council, is sponsoring the project. Project members include advisory representatives from each of the seven Indiana counties through which Morgan rode. In addition, there are six principal members with backgrounds in authoring books, preserving history, and promoting economic tourism.

For more information, call Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D office at 812 689-6456.

Communi-Care in rural Texas

Wes-Tex RC&D and the cities of Levelland, Lamesa, and Floydada, Texas, joined forces to secured grants from the Texas Rural Communities of Austin and from the CH Foundation of Lubbock to assist in installing a communi-care system in each of the communities.

The communi-care service is a computerized communication system that provides a method of checking on the elderly and disabled in their homes on a daily basis.

The communities in and around Levelland, Lamesa, and Floydada have a shortage of avail-

able nursing homes and health care facilities for the elderly and disabled. Many of these citizens have limited income and would prefer living independently in their homes. The city leaders of the three communities identified the problem and requested assistance from Wes-Tex RC&D.

Anyone residing in these communities and surrounding towns who would like to use this service can contact the appropriate city office.

For more information about communi-care, please call the Wes-Tex RC&D office for assistance at 806 266-5067.

Put The Environment On Your Shipping List!

Quick! What's the best way to handle garbage? Recycling? Landfill? How about not buying it in the first place

That's the idea behind the RC&D's current grocery store campaign **Put The Environment On Your Shipping List**. AmeriCorps members Sharon Smith and Cassandra Sheaffer have been working in Tennessee with the Clinch-Powell RC&D counties to give consumers ideas on how to help solve our solid waste problem by shopping wisely.

Displays and signs in grocery stores, free message boards with shopping tips, radio announcements, newspaper articles, and ads were all used to give shoppers reduction tips.

Probably the most effective method of reaching out to the community is meeting with local citizens groups. To date, AmeriCorps members and RC&D staff have visited women groups, civic groups, high school classes, and senior citizen groups to spread the message.

Another part of the campaign is a contest that focuses on ways to reuse old items. Gift certifi-

cates to participating grocery stores are being offered as the prize for the most innovative or practical ideas for reusing items.

Reusing, recycling, and reducing are all messages presented during the campaign. Most of all,



the campaign is an attempt to get people to think about what packaging and trash they are buying with their groceries. Most of the shopping tips are also money saving tips too.

About two-thirds of household trash is made up of packaging. Getting people to take a close look at packaging is a great way to turn talk into action.

Research in waste management demonstrates that once people realize how environmentally beneficial and cost effective source reduction is, they put it into practice. **Put the Environment on Your Shopping List** is funded by a grant from the USDA Forest Service. Contact the Clinch-Powell RC&D at 423-828-5927 for more information.

C.A.S.T.

No, bones are not breaking, but young minds are opening to the possibilities of science. C.A.S.T., Cooperative Application of Science and Technology, is a new concept that offers a unique and challenging way to put 7th and 8th grade 4-H members on the cutting edge in the fields of science and technology of their future.

The Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D, Jackson, Tennessee, is sponsoring a C.A.S.T. program in the area. Several teams have selected different projects to provide solutions to local community problems through scientific

research. These teams attended a 1-day conference to present their findings. Gayle Parrish, Henderson County 4-H agent, organized the program.

Thanks to Parrish, young 4-H members of the area have an unprecedented opportunity to gain a better understanding of science and its practical applications.

For more information about C.A.S.T. contact Chris Moyers, Coordinator, Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D at 901 668-7770

Waste reduction in work

Beginning in June, the Clinch-Powell RC&D in eastern Tennessee is holding nine "Waste Reduction at Work" workshops for local businesses, industries, and offices.

These workshops, funded by a grant from the Rural Utilities Services, are focusing on waste reduction in the workplace.

Workshop participants can attend a morning program for business and industry or an afternoon program geared to public service oriented businesses and organizations. A free joint lunch will be offered to both groups.

Topics in the workshop include waste reduction strategies, how to start a reduction program, marketing recyclables, case studies, and more. Participants receive a comprehensive workbook on waste reduction developed specifically for the workshop to be used as a reference and resource guide. The workbook is printed on 50 percent post-consumer paper and bound in a 3-ring binder made from recycled cardboard. Workbooks are available for \$12 each plus \$3 shipping and handling. For more information, contact the Clinch-Powell RC&D at 423 828-5927.

Hot off the press

Two new publications are hot off the press from the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative.

The *Tennessee Wilderness Road Guide and Map* is a full color guide highlighting heritage and historical attraction along the trail of Daniel Boone through East Tennessee. The guide will be distributed widely throughout the Southeast. The Wilderness Road was developed and published with assistance from the USDA Forest Service.

Phase two of the development of The Wilderness Road is the production of an interactive CD-ROM which will allow potential visitors to take a preliminary tour of sites, using their computers. Several historic and scenic attractions will be featured for viewers to select. Each selection will show a live-action video sequence and give a brief explanation of the site.

If funded this will be the first tourism-based CD-ROM in the State of Tennessee and the first one we know of nationally. Thousands of CDs will be distributed for free to entice visitors to the area. Successful demonstration of this technology could have far reaching implications for rural areas in many forms of economic development and recruitment.

A *Comprehensive Assessment Of The Potential For Specialty Recreation And Eco-Tourism* for the Clinch-Powell region has been completed. The assessment includes detailed listings of demographics, economic indicators, natural resources, folk artists, genealogy resources, historical and heritage resources, technical resources, potential funding sources, etc. The 180-page assessment is an excellent blueprint for rural tourism planning and is available for \$10 plus \$3 shipping and handling. Contact the Clinch-Powell RC&D at 423 828-5927.

Wood Products Companies on Web

Cliff Schafer, Chairman of the Sullivan Trail RC&D Council, New York, announced that the Council has been awarded a \$9,500 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). This grant will be used to subsidize the costs associated with establishing a presence on the Internet's World Wide Web. It will be used by wood products companies from New York's Southern Tier .

The profiles and descriptions of such businesses will serve as a marketing tool by describing each company's product lines, manufacturing capabilities, the species of timber they use, how to place orders, as well as other pertinent information. Initially about 25 companies will be included under the New York Allegheny Highland's home page.

In addition to the company profiles, the 16-page forest industry directory in New York State's Allegheny Highland Forest Industry Profile Prospectus will also be posted on the Web. This directory, which was published by the Sullivan Trail RC&D Council, list more than 2,340 wood companies by product or service, or both. In addition to the company's names, the directory will include each business address and telephone number.

The New York State's Allegheny Highland home page, directory, and company profiles are expected to be completely on-line by this fall. Wood product companies from New York's Southern Tier interested in establishing their presence on the Web through this project should contact the Sullivan Trail RC&D Council's office at 3 Pulteney Square East, Bath, NY 14810 or call (607) 776-9631 ext. 2603.

Urban planning

A comprehensive urban plan addressing all natural resource components is being developed within the city of Madison, Mississippi. The plan uses a technical team operating under the direction of an 11 agency steering committee with the Central Mississippi RC&D Council. The main objective of the project is to sustain quality of life for the 12,000 citizens of Madison. The plan will also maintain a balance of growth through economic development and environmental concerns.

Problems being addressed include flooding, land use, loss of wetlands, sediment pollution, ground water resources, erosion control, recreational green spaces, and nonpoint pollution. The city mayor and board are cooperating with state, Federal, and local agencies to accomplish the plan. Best management practices will also be identified and established as an environmental demonstration.

Partners and funding sources include the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

For more information about this planning activity, contact the Central Mississippi RC&D Council office at 601 965-5233

Ecological corridors to preserve a way of life

The Grand Traverse Bay Watershed is renowned

for its pristine water quality and abundance of natural resources. Clean water, woods and wildlife are the primary reason people live and visit the Northwest Michigan RC&D five county area. Because of the popularity of the area, the Grand Traverse region has been under intense development pressures. The growth rate in the region is four times the state rate, and almost twice the national average. Development is having detrimental impacts on the resources that attract people, and will continue to do so in the future if allowed to continue.



The Ecological Corridors Task Force intends that the project directly involves landowners in the protection of critical wildlife linkages through education, outreach, and technical assistance. The essence of the project will be the voluntary cooperation of landowners for the overall benefit of wildlife and water quality within the watershed. A critical part the landowner's cooperation is a basic understanding of the role the property plays in the watershed ecosystem. Landowners must understand the value of the resources before they will protect and enhance them. Most forest landowners do not manage their forest lands to their productive potential, whether it be for wildlife, timber, or recreation. It is not for lack of desire, but rather a lack of knowing where to turn for help.

The Ecological Corridors project is currently evaluating the natural resources in the five county watershed area as one part of the Northwest Michigan Green-ways Project. The Northwest Michigan RC&D Council has received funding from the Coastal Management Program, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to administer the Ecological Corridors project. Using Geographical Information Systems, a watershed wide map of existing wildlife habitats and potential linkages between those areas has been generated. Potential corridors, or linkages, have been identified by a task force of state and Federal agency personnel, wildlife biologists, landscape and township planners, and private citizens. Local residents have prioritized corridors through a series of focus group discussions.

The implementation phase of the Ecological Corridors Project will involve contacting priority landowners (those properties critical to establish linkages) to provide the assistance necessary to manage their resources. Conservation districts, private consultants, and conservancy personnel will provide the expertise that landowners need to meet their management objectives. This "win-win" situation results in landowners becoming informed and actively involved in management of their resources, while wildlife and water quality benefit from proper protection and management.

For more information about the Ecological Corridors Project call the Northwest Michigan RC&D office at 616 946-6817.

Strategic Planning For Communities

"Harnessing the Power of Vision — Ten Steps to Creating a Strategic Vision and Action Plan for Your Community." is a new publication by Economic and Community Development Section of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension. The publication describes a community development process that engages an entire community in planning and working to achieve its desired future. A strategic visioning component focuses on these key questions:

- where have you been;
- where are you now;
- where do you want to go;
- how will you get there; and
- how will you know when you are there?

Single copies are available free from the Economic and Community Development Section of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service; call 501 671-2072.

Clay Lake Plain Ecosystem Planning

An ecosystem approach to management on private lands in the eastern Upper Peninsula is being developed by the Upper Peninsula RC&D Forestry Committee and the Upper Peninsula RC&D Council in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division and the Clay Lake Plain Advisory Committee are developing

The project area covers nearly 400,000 acres, nearly all of it in private ownership. It has involved developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) data base on land cover, soils, ownership, presettlement data and Land Treatment Area (LTA) designation. Information has been gathered on common and unique wildlife and nongame species as well as native plants. The information is summarized on 10 individual LTA information sheets used by resource planners and landowners.

Public information meetings are held to present the information to the public. Eighty-two people attended the first town hall meeting. The mission statement for the first-of-a-kind ecosystem planning project is: "To promote a cooperative effort to maintain and/or enhance the biodiversity of sustainable ecosystems on private lands in the eastern Upper Peninsula through information and education."

By completing the project, the advisory committee hopes to generate an increase in requests for ecosystem-based stewardship or conservation plans, or both, in the area. The project is funded in part by a grant from the DNR/USFS Stewardship Program.

For more information contact Randy Wilkinson, Upper Peninsula RC&D Coordinator, at 906 226-7487 or Bob DeVillez, DNR CFM Forester at 906 293-5131.

Seven traits of effective leaders How many do you share?

Are leaders born or made? Can you learn superior leadership skills? No one is sure, but experts have noticed seven specific actions that successful leaders carry out, regardless of the organization or cause they lead.

Effective Leaders:

- * Make others feel important. If your goals and decisions are self-centered, followers will lose their enthusiasm quickly. Emphasize their strengths and contributions, not your own.
- * Promote a vision. Followers need a clear idea of where you're leading them, and they need to understand why that goal is valuable to them. Your job as a leader is to provide that vision.
- * Follow the golden rule. Treat your followers the way you enjoy being treated. An abusive leader attracts few loyal followers.
- * Admit mistakes. If people suspect that you're covering up your own errors, they'll hide their mistakes, too, and you'll lack valuable information for making decisions.
- * Criticize others only in private. Public praise encourages others to excel, but public criticism only embarrasses and alienates everyone.
- * Stay close to the action. You need to be visible to the members of your organization. Talk to people, visit other offices and work sites, ask questions, and observe how business is being handled. Often you will gain insights into your work and find new opportunities for motivating your followers.
- * Make a game of competition. The competitive drive can be a valuable tool if you use it correctly. Set team goals, and reward members who meet or exceed them. Examine your failures, and celebrate your group's successes.

Give A Hoot

In Southeast Tennessee RC&D area, a week long event takes place where inner city elementary children experience real farm life on Oscar and Barbara Scott's farm. Third grader Eric Corbitt says, "It's hard work on the farm." On the farm are eight stations for the 1,200 children to visit. These stations were sheep shearing, rabbits, cows, pigs, Conservation Kid's Club, horseshoe pitching, kickball and last but not least the dinner table. The 300 plus volunteers are parents, teachers, AmeriCorps members and friends of the Scott's, and other volunteers.

Barbara Scott said, "It is important for the children to know where their food comes from instead of merely relating it to the local grocery store." The Scott's take a 1-week vacation to give something to the students. Something they will remember for a life time. Oscar and Barbara contact the schools and coordinate getting students and volunteers, feeding volunteers, and raising all those animals. These students saw sheep being sheared by UT Agriculture Extension Agent, Jesse Hewlett, and felt the wool and the sheep, the piglets and the worms.

The Hamilton County BRCS was set up with their Conservation Kids Club (CKC) activities. The CKC had their envirothrow game, worms, CKC Newsletter, farm rug, and other activities for the students to experience conservation. The Bradley County NRCS exhibited the cow and calf, explaining to the children how the green grass and the brown cow make white milk. AmeriCorps members from the Southeast Tennessee RC&D coordinated volunteers and assisted with the day to day activities. There were daily appearances by Sammy Soil, Ruby Raindrop, Smokey the Bear, and Woodsy Owl. Two of the three local media stations came out to the farm. This event was cosponsored by Southeast Tennessee RC&D Council and the Cherokee National Forest.

For more information contact Bobby Peters, Southeast Tennessee RC&D Coordinator, at 615 479-6788.

Agri-Tourism on the Internet

Cliff Schafer, chairman of the Sullivan Trail (NY) RC&D Council, announced that following the successful printing of "The Beat of the Finger Lakes Heartland; Your Guide to Sensational Scents, Sights, Tastes, and Textures", segments of the brochure will be posted on the Internet's World Wide Web.

Information from the brochure, appearing on the Web, will include the description, business hours, location, and telephone numbers of 55 agriculturally related businesses located in Ontario, Seneca, and Yates Counties. The enterprises consist of wineries, roadside stands, u-pick operations, farm and craft markets as well as livestock farms which provide tours.

Although, not a complete replication of the brochure, the information on the Web will give the viewer a general flavor of the agricultural opportunities in the three-county region. The viewer will be able to request a copy of the brochure from their living room. The information from the brochure is posted on the Web by Hartline Business Services of Penn Yan. To access "The Beat of the Finger Lakes Heartland..." type in the following address <http://www.finger-lakes.com/heartland.html>.

If you are not accessible to the Web and would like a copy of the brochure, contact the Sullivan Trail RC&D Council, # Pulteney Square East, Bath, New York 14810, (607) 776-963 ext. 2603.

Hazardous waste challenge

Proper disposal of common household products — paint, cleaners, solvents, batteries and pesticides is a challenge in rural areas that do not have a drop-off site.

Read Willow County in Nebraska decided to address this problem and requested technical assistance from the Southwest Nebraska RC&D. It quickly became apparent that 1-day collection events would not be economically feasible in this rural area. The RC&D covers over 4.1 million acres with a population of less than 36,000.

In working to find a solution, the county recognized that a number of local residents were already trained in handling hazardous materials. They included the County Weed Superintendent, Volunteer Fire Department Hazmat Team members, and an environmental engineer. These local people could collect, segregate, and package materials for shipment resulting in greatly reduced waste hauler costs. Also, most of the materials could be reused or recycled.

Red Willow County received a Nebraska Department of Environment Quality grant. It was used for purchasing equipment and supplies and for printing informational materials. The RC&D also committed \$3,000 in program funds. The local Natural Resources District authorized \$2,000. The Extension Service, Keep Nebraska Beautiful, State Recycling Association, and others, provided assistance in developing informational brochures.

The Southwest Nebraska Household Hazardous Waste Program held its first collection event in May this year. During a 6-hour event 16,430 pounds of household materials were collected. The Hazmat team and the environmental engineer scrambled to sort and package the materials.

Over 60 percent of the collected material was recycled, reused, or disposed of at no cost. The remaining truly hazardous materials were safely packaged for shipment to a hazardous waste disposal site.

The next phase of the program is to provide mobile collections in other counties. A tractor has already been secured to pull the processing trailer. Working arrangements between the participating counties, including financing the program, is currently underway.

For more information on the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, call Ron Daniel, Coordinator, Southwest Nebraska RC&D at 308 697-3477.

Camp Fish Tales goes over the top!

Camp *Fish Tales* recently reached a milestone by raising over \$60,000 to match a challenge grant from the Squires Foundation in Bay City, Michigan. In fact the \$60,000 has been exceeded by some \$400,000.

Current Project Coordinator, Don Wackerle recently revealed that \$465,000 in cash, material, and labor has been raised to match the Squire Foundation "Challenge Grant". Cash was obtained by raffling a car donated by the Saturn Car Company and making presentations to civic organizations and other interested in the project.

The Bay County Road Commission provided a 99-year lease on 66.5 acres of sand borrow area to start the project. Since that time, 1 mile of trail has been built and the Welcome Center is currently under construction. The Welcome Center will also have 24 dorm rooms for overnight and week long campers. Camp Fish Tales is a camp geared toward providing outdoor activity for those with physical and mental challenges. Wackerle is now turning the fund raising attention to Phase II of the project, which will build 10-12 cabins that will hold 8 campers each.

The Saginaw Bay RC&D Council would like to congratulate Don Wackerle and Camp Fish Tales on a job "well done" and wish him success in his fund raising!!!

For more information contact the Saginaw Bay RC&D office in Bay City, Michigan by calling 517 684-5650.

Innovative funding and award recognition

Huron Pines RC&D, Michigan, received a grant from the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan to fund an awards program called the "O.B. Eustice Environmental Awards". The grant funds will allow each of the Eustice Award winners to designate their winnings for an environmental project from the Huron Pines 1996 Plan of Work.

The criteria for the awards included representing a balanced long-term view for reconciling the protection of the environment with the intelligent use of natural resources. The winners of the first O.B. Eustice Awards were announced by the O.B. Eustice Award Selection Committee. There were three categories which consisted of individual, organization, and business. The program has been so well received that its being planned for next year and will become an annual program by the O.B. Eustice Awards Selection Committee.

For further information contact the Huron Pines RC&D office at 517 348-9319.

Early resource team

The Leon-Bosque (TX) RC&D, the Texas Rural Development Council, the City of Early, the Early Chamber of Commerce, The Early Economic Development Corporation, and the citizens of Early, Texas are partners in a project to make Early a better place to live and work. Through the efforts of the Leon-Bosque RC&D, a resource team from the Texas Rural Development Council worked with the community to conduct an in depth community assessment. Following the assessment process a report of recommendations from the team were presented to the citizens in a public meeting. A group called the Early Resource Advancement Council is now organizing to act upon the recommendations in the report.

For more information on the resource team process and how it works, contact Ronnie Boston at 817 897-3747. For a copy of the resource team report contact Lenny Welch at the Early Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-646-8161.

A vision for the Missouri River Corridor

The Missouri River Corridor (SD) Action Team (MRCAT), a 30-member team of agency representatives and community volunteers, has been working hard to create a common vision for all Missouri River interests.

The goal of the Missouri River Corridor Project (MRCP) is to protect and enhance the cultural, natural, and recreational resources of the Missouri River. To do this the MRCAT plans to develop a public use Geographic Information System (GIS) for the Missouri River Corridor Project and to put a team of consultants together to help local people with their projects.

By combining computer assisted design and drafting with GIS, having the staff assistance available, having the network of assisting agencies, and a common vision for the corridor in place, the team is able to help develop the river to its fullest recreational capability and use. At the same time, it provides for sustainable protection of precious natural and cultural resources.

An agreement is in place with South Dakota State University to develop a geographic information system for the Missouri River Corridor Project. Maps developed through the GIS will be used in the first edition of the MRCP plan. An agreement is also in place with the Northeast Council of Governments for assistance with fundraising. Funding is needed to purchase the computer hardware and software to move the GIS to Pierre, to set up a MRCP office with staff assistance, and to initiate the planning and design work for sites identified in the MRCP Plan.

Part of the concept will be to enhance the availability and marketing of the corridor to the general public. The economies of local rural communities will be enhanced as a spin-off because of increased access to the corridor and increased tourism trade.

For more information about the Missouri River Corridor Project, contact Karl Whitmore, coordinator, North Central South Dakota RC&D at 605 224-1818.

High plains RC&D didn't wait

Texas based, High Plains RC&D Council has been busy addressing priority community needs. High Plains RC&D, although not authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture, has been effectively providing assistance to their communities.

Several examples of its successes include: a million dollar day care center in Dalhart, Texas, which will care for 350 pre-school children; a bus purchased for a day care center in Tulia, Texas; a house to be used as a day care center in Happy,

Texas; and the purchase and renovation of an old gas station into a new information center in Vega, Texas. All of these projects have been funded by grants.

These are just examples of the good things being accomplished by many RC&D Councils yet to be authorized by USDA.

For more information about the activities of the High Plains RC&D, Inc., contact Tom L. Davey, acting RC&D coordinator, at 806 995-3035.

What it takes to be a leader

Based on surveys of more than 15,000 people, which of these traits do you think was selected as the key to effective leadership

- * Being fair-minded?
- * Being cooperative?
- * Being honest?
- * Being imaginative?

If you guessed "honest," you get a high mark. it scored far above any of the others in a list of 20. In fact, the top four characteristics of admired leaders and the percentage of people who selected them are

- * Being honest - 87%
- * Being forward looking - 71%
- * Being inspirational - 68%
- * Being competent - 58%

"If these qualities alone were running for office," say the authors of *Credibility*, "they are the ones that would achieve consensus and victory."

Honest people have credibility, and that's what gives leaders the trust and confidence of their people.

High credibility leaders foster such things as greater pride in the organization, stronger spirit of cooperation and teamwork, and more feelings of ownership and personal responsibility.

What are some of the other characteristics of credible leaders?

- * They do what they say they will do. They keep their promises and follow through on their commitments.
- * Their actions are consistent with the wishes of the people they lead. They have a clear idea of what others value and what they can do.
- * They believe in the inherent self worth of others. And they learn "how to discover and communicate the shared values and vision that can form a common ground on which all can stand."
- * They are capable of making a difference in the lives of others - and liberating the leader in everyone.
- * They admit their mistakes. They realize that attempting to hide mistakes is much more damaging and erodes credibility. But when they admit to making a mistake, they do something about it.
- * They arouse optimistic feelings and enable their people to hold positive thoughts about the possibilities of success.
- * They create a climate for learning characterized by trust and openness.

Source: *Credibility: How Leaders Gain and Lose It, Why People Demand It*, by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner, Jossey-Bass Inc., Publishers, 350 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94104.

Tennessee Envirothon – RC&D building partnerships

For the past 3 years the Tennessee RC&D Council has sponsored the State Envirothon in Tennessee. Participation in the event has increased significantly. The first Envirothon in the state was organized by the Clinch-Powell RC&D in 1993. In 1994 all Councils began holding regional events and organizing state events for regional winners.

Envirothon is a national event in which over 40 states participated in 1996. The event began several years ago in Pennsylvania as the “Environmental Olympics” for high school students. Teams of 5 students prepare for and are tested in five different subject areas. The subjects are Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and a Current Environmental Issue that changes annually. A major goal of the event is to show students how all aspects of natural resources are interrelated and how interdependent all species are upon natural resources.

In Tennessee a multitude of organizations, agencies, and volunteers work closely to develop educational resources, provide in-kind dona-

tions, funding and general support. Although the Tennessee Council took the lead originally, it saw the potential to grow partnerships by opening up the event to like minded professionals. Grants and funding have come from a variety of sources in addition to hundreds of volunteer hours worth thousands of dollars. Organizations that had not worked together before found common ground while working toward a common goal.

Partners in the 1996 event were USDA, NRCS; USDA, FS; TN Association of Conservation Districts; TN Department of Agriculture - Ag Nonpoint Fund; Nonpoint Source Program and Division of Forestry; TN Farm Bureau Federation; TN Greenways; TN Wildlife Resources Agency; the University of TN – Agriculture Extension Service; and of course the TN RC&D Council.

For more information, contact Roy D. Settle – RC&D Project Coordinator and 1996 Tennessee Envirothon Chairman at 423 854-9621 at the Appalachian-Northeast Tennessee RC&D Council.

Shadow Oak — a handicap accessible campground

The Shadow Oak Campground in Central Mississippi RC&D is a nature trail and walkway developed for the handicapped at the Mississippi State Hospital. This outdoor classroom is used in horticultural therapy for over 1,000 patients. A \$500,000 economic impact to Mississippi is expected as benefits of the project.



An Americorps Team, Mississippi Federation of Garden Clubs, hospital staff, the Mississippi Chapter of the Soil and Water

Conservation Society, and the Central Mississippi RC&D Council provided over 3,000 hours of volunteer time to the completion of this project

Patients, hospital staff, and visitors will learn while having an enjoyable outdoor experience. Future construction will include park benches, a fishing pier, bird houses, and an amphitheater.

For more information about ShadowOak contact Chuck Jepsen, Coordinator, Central Mississippi RC&D, by calling 601 965-5233.

Banking it – restoring Bethabara Creek

People driving by Historic Bethabara Park, North Carolina, might think they are looking at a disaster area.

But the 40 or so people milling around the creek aren't working a disaster. They are repairing an area that was damaged by storm-water runoff, from the heavily developed areas around the park, that tore through the creek banks.

The folks making the repairs are using a technique known as bioengineering to stabilize and repair the creek. The technique is bringing the area back to something more like the original conditions that the Moravians saw when they settled here nearly 250 years ago.

Five instructors, 31 trainees, and 10 volunteers are working on a 250-foot section of the creek.

They are using materials no more complicated than branches, wooden stakes, wire, and bundles of hairy brown fibers of coconut husks to build a system that should prevent further erosion of the creek in this area.

Pilot View (NC) RC&D, Inc. worked with Historic Bethabara Park to get grant money and to put together a week-long seminar to make the needed creek repairs and to provide training to 31 stream channel stabilization trainees.

"It's old technology, but we are using it in new ways," said Charles F. Anderson, the Executive Director of Pilot View RC&D, North Carolina.

One strategy used involves laying mattresses of live dogwood, alder and willow branches over steep streambanks, driving wooden stakes through the branches, and tying them down with wire. Participants cover the branches with topsoil so they will sprout in the springtime.

In other areas, trainees are digging terraces into the creek banks and embedding cigar-shaped bundles of branches in the excavated terraces.

Later, volunteers plan to plant trees, grasses, and shrubs to increase the stability of the streambanks.

In recent years, engineers have returned to using these biological methods as a cheaper and more environmentally sound way to restore stability to stream channels.

For more information about this bioengineering project contact Charles Anderson, Executive Director, Pilot View RC&D by calling 919 593-2846.

Every little bit helps

Indiana's Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Water Resources Committee is coordinating a Volunteer Water Monitoring pilot program to test streams, rivers, and inlets to lakes within the six county RC&D Project Area. The Water Monitoring Pilot Program Volunteers will be following the guidelines developed by the Water Watches of Indiana Program that is geared toward teachers and high school students. The Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Water Resources Committee is adapting the Water Watches of Indiana Program for adults and is working with ten groups of individuals.

Seed money was contributed by the St. Joe River Basin Commission. With some time and several presentations, more money was contributed by the Maumee River Basin Commission, Steuben County Drainage Board, and two lake associations. Several other lake associations are pooling their efforts and sharing the cost of monitoring equipment.

Volunteer time, ownership of a project, sharing cost, monitoring water quality within watersheds, forming new partners, and improved water quality communication within the region. Placing a \$ value on these is difficult.

For more information about the Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D water quality monitoring program contact the RC&D Office at 219-925-3066.

Poultry litter/nutrient management conservationist hired

Adam Reed was selected as the Nutrient Management Conservationist for the Poultry Litter/Nutrient Management Demonstration. The project sponsored by the Southern Missouri RC&D is funded by a \$378,000 Environmental Protection Agency/Missouri Department of Natural Resources grant and by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Reed is an employee of NRCS in the Cassville field office. He has earned a BS in Agronomy and an MS in Water Quality-Agronomy from the University of Arkansas. Adam is from Lamar, Missouri.

Reed will be working with cooperators to demonstrate proper nutrient management techniques and to gauge effectiveness through water sampling and testing. He will assist cooperators to analyze poultry litter nutrient and soil sample results, and determine application rates for safe and cost-effective nutrient management.

Ten demonstration farms within the upper Shoal Creek Watershed will be chosen by the area's poultry companies and Hammons Products Company. The demonstration farms will include two tree sites (a young planting and a mature stand).

Co-sponsors of the project include NRCS, MDNR, EPA, Butterball Turkey Company, George's Inc., Hudson Farms, MOARK, Simmons Industries, Tyson Foods, Missouri Poultry Federation, Hammons Products Company, and Missouri Department of Conservation.

For more information, contact the Southwest Missouri RC&D office, 329 West Highway 60, Republic, Missouri 65738. Phone 417-732-6485.

Gallup surveys forest landowners

Southwest Missouri RC&D sponsored a survey of the forest landowners in the area. The Gallup Organization was contracted to conduct the survey. Some of the findings were anticipated, while others shed new light. Here are some of the findings:

- * That only 13 percent of the landowners are aware that cost share is available.
- * Most landowners have planted trees or improved wildlife habitat on their land.
- * Only 9 percent of the landowners have sought management advice for their wooded land.
- * The biggest reason people own their land is for beauty or nature appreciation. Keeping the land in the family, providing game habitat, personal recreation, and protecting natural features also ranked high on the list.
- * Three-fourths of the landowners live on their wood land.

Interactive video is being considered to increase landowner participation.. Southwest Missouri RC&D and the Missouri Department of Conservation hope to increase the number of landowners using the free services of government agencies and receiving cost share for good management practices.

The landowner study was funded through the Missouri Department of Conservation with USDA Forest Service "Rural Development Through Forestry" monies. For more information contact the Southwest Missouri RC&D office by calling 417-732-6485.

Southeastern Indiana computer network effort started

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council is working to have Internet effective for the area. It met with Tony Nunn, Director of the Lincoln Trail Televillage at Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and members of the Historic Hoosier Hills Community Network Committee to explain how the computer network was set up in the Elizabethtown area and offer suggestions for getting started in the Hoosier Hills region.

Televillage established twelve "sector" committees, each one reaching a different group of users, or customers. The chairs of the sector committees make up the Advisory Committee that oversees the operation of the entire network. This allows the sharing of information and ideas among users within each sector group, and help them learn how to use the network and the Internet for communication and to do business.

If rural Indiana, and particularly southeastern Indiana, is to be competitive in national and global markets, it needs to be linked with national and global customers. Rural economic development will be influenced by Internet. Southeastern Indian Rural Telephone Cooperative has made Internet access available in six counties at an affordable price.

To get more information on Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council's efforts in deploying a project area Internet network call their office at 812-689-6456 or fax 812-689-3398.

Joe R. Adair Outdoor Education Center

The Joe R. Adair Outdoor Education Center RC&D Project is the culmination of a community effort to improve natural resource education for the public schools of Laurens County, South Carolina.

Adair, a retiree from USDA and member of the Ninety Six District (SC) RC&D Council, has been deeply involved in local efforts to improve natural resource education in his community.

In 1992, he donated approximately 10 acres of valuable residential property to the Laurens County Soil and Water Conservation District for development as an outdoor learning center. The RC&D Council was asked to assist in fund raising as a non-profit partner.

The Joe R. Adair Foundation was created in honor of "Mr. Joe" with a board of directors to serve as the governing body for the center.

In March 1996, the construction of a \$140,000 structure to serve as an administration - classroom building for the center was completed. An amphitheater, nature trails, and other outdoor educational features complement the site.

The public school districts of Laurens County are cooperating in a mutual aid arrangement to fund the salary of a director as well as general operating costs of the center. Laura Blind is the center's first director.

The RC&D Council has obtained grants, volunteer workers, materials and other resources to assist in the development of this project. For example, the Monsanto Corporation provided a \$25,000 grant to help fund the classroom portion of the building.

For more information about this project, contact the Ninety Six District RC&D office by dialing 803 229-2174.

Unpaved road Better Management Practices demonstration

Stevens Creek, a tributary of the Savannah River, drains a 469,000 acre area that includes portions of Edgefield, Greenwood, McCormick and Saluda Counties, South Carolina

The Stevens Creek Watershed has been identified by EPA and the South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control as a critical hydrologic unit area.

Within this watershed area exists hundreds of miles of unpaved public roads. These unpaved roads are considered a nonpoint source of pollution.

Over the years, these roads have become established as property boundaries as well as sole access routes for hundreds of landowners who depend on them as vital transportation links.

Typically, state and county governments have inherited the problem of maintenance for these roads which is difficult because of the original “wagon-trail” method of installation. Original bridge, culvert, and road ditch sizing is often inadequate for frequent storm events and compounds maintenance problems for local governments.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Land Resources and Conservation Districts Division has contracted with the Ninety Six RC&D Council to demonstrate best Management Practices (BMP) of treatment for reducing sediment damages from unpaved public roads.

The objective of this joint effort is to focus attention on a primary source of nonpoint sediment pollution, assemble a network of local expertise to develop BMPs to meet local needs

and to demonstrate as many of these BMPs as possible to assist in developing practical, cost-effective methods of sediment reduction.

This demonstration will be of value in terms of educating public officials towards better utilizing existing resources to address this source of non-point pollution.

This contract, provides \$30,000 through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, and stipulates that RC&D will—

- prepare an audiovisual of unpaved road stabilization;
- prepare technical guidelines for unpaved road stabilization and maintenance;
- install a demonstration of unpaved road stabilization;
- conduct training workshops on unpaved road maintenance, and
- provide technical assistance to local governments through cooperating organizations.

Excellent participation and support for this effort is provided by a number of organizations and agencies including—

- local county governments;
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts of the involved counties;
- South Carolina Departments of Natural Resources, Transportation and Health and Environmental Control;
- South Carolina Farm Bureau; South Carolina Forestry Commission;
- Clemson Extension Service;
- Transportation Technology Transfer Program - Clemson University; and
- USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For additional information contact the office of the Ninety Six District RC&D Council by calling 803 229-2174

Leelanau Lakeshore owners, Northwest Michigan RC&D, and Leelanau Conservation District form partnership

In 1994, many lakefront property owners and agriculture operators entered into a 2-year program to protect the South Lake Leelanau Watershed. Concern regarding rapid population growth and increased recreational use on South Lake Leelanau prompted the Northwest Michigan RC&D Council to apply for a \$200,000 Clean Water Act grant.

Under the scope of the grant, riparian landowners have been encouraged to develop "no mow" zones along the lakeshore, and they are provided with landscaping plans for buffer strips as well as costshare money to purchase plants. The buffer zone allows the vegetation along the shoreline to intercept nutrients and stop them from polluting the lake. Deep-rooted vegetation along the shore also reduces shoreline erosion. Lakefront property owners are also provided assistance in the design and installation of access paths, shoreline stabilization work and in the evaluation and repair of septic systems.

Agriculture operators are encouraged to develop buffer strips along the lakeshore and on streambanks, also to establish permanent cover on areas of highly erodible soils. By planting vegetation on these critical areas, landowners will stabilize the soil and reduce sediment and nutrient delivery to the lake and stream. Technical and financial assistance is also available to assist operators to install fencing and watering facilities along lakeshore or streams to minimize the potential effect of livestock waste on water quality.

For more information about this project contact the Leelanau Conservation District at 616-256-9783 or the Northwest Michigan RC&D at 616-947-5600.

Funding for rural areas

Finding the correct Federal assistance program or tracking down grant application procedures sometimes can be a difficult task. However, the May 1995 publication *Federal Funding Sources For Rural Areas*, available from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC), may help point you in the right direction.

The annual publication provides listings of federal assistance programs; national, regional, and local office contacts; and grant application procedures.

The package contains information about programs offered through the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Interior, Justice, Labor, Transportation, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development.

Also the publication provides details about the National Credit Union Administration, National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities, Small Business Administration, Tennessee Valley Authority, EPA, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Appalachian Regional Commission.

Funding programs included in this document were obtained from the Federal Assistance Programs Retrieval System (FAPRS), an on-line data base, and the print version of the data base known as the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 1994.

State, local, and regional office information, not provided in the document, can be obtained in the local telephone directory, in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, or by contacting the Rural Information Center (RIC) at 800 633-7701.

To order a copy of *Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas*, contact the NSFC toll-free at 800 624-8301 and order item #FMPCFN15. Cost is \$16.85, plus shipping and handling.

This item was taken from the numerous articles in *Small Flows*, Spring 1996 issue. All RC&D offices should be receiving this publication. If you are not receiving it, call National Small Flows Clearinghouse at 1-800-624-8301.

National RC&D Directory

Numerous corrections and personnel changes have been made to update the National RC&D Directory. The efforts of all those who helped provide corrected and up-to-date information is greatly appreciated.

Each RC&D Office, National Association Board Member, Regional Association President, State Association President, State RC&D Program



Manager, State Conservationist, Regional Conservationist and Partnership Liasion, and USDA Working Group Member will be receiving the new directory with this issue of the RC&D Note. If there are others who have a need for and would like a copy of the

National RC&D Directory, please contact John Marstella, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Cartography & Geospatial Center, P.O. Box 6567, Fort Worth, Texas 76115 or Fax 817-334-5469.

National distribution of RC&D Notes is made quarterly. The fall issue is due out October 1, 1996. Deadline for articles you wish to have considered for publication in the fall issue of the RC&D Notes is September 1, 1996. Please send contributions to -

John Marstella
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Cartography & Geospatial Center
P.O. Box 6567
Fort Worth, Texas 76115
FAX 817-334-5469.

or

Richard Bolli
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
MNTC Federal Building Rm 152
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Your comments, suggestions, and contributions are greatly appreciated. Your information and ideas are important to others. Please take the time to share them.

Strategic Planning For Communities



"Harnessing the Power of Vision — Ten Steps to Creating a Strategic Vision and Action Plan for Your Community." is a new publication by Economic and Community Development Section of the University of Arkansas Cooperative

Extension. The publication describes a community development process that engages an entire community in planning and working to

achieve its desired future. A strategic visioning component focuses on these key questions:

- where have you been;
- where are you now;
- where do you want to go;
- how will you get there; and
- how will you know when you are there?

Single copies are available free from the Economic and Community Development Section of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service; call 501 671-2072.

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